(iv) Organisation of three seminars on investor education.

(f) As per the information received from various Registrars of Companies, a total amount of Rs. 419,16,01,592.88 had been received towards IEPF upto 31.03.2006 and credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Restoration and maintenance work of monuments to private agencies

*369. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has decided to outsource the conservation of monuments by giving these monuments to private agencies for restoration and maintenance work;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to rectify the same; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that restoration and maintenance work of these monuments is done departmentally?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The existing strength of 502 personnel under various conservation cadres is inadequate considering the volume of conservation works in the protected monuments handled by 24 circles of the Archaeological Survey of India. In addition to implementing its annual programmes, ASI has to honour the requests from State Governments to carry out conservation works in the state protected monuments as deposit works and also take up such works abroad as part of the bilateral agreements.

Therefore, keeping in view of the conservation needs of the 3667 protected monuments and sites, the Archaeological Survey of India has decided to outsource conservation works in selected monuments.

Almost all the conservation works are still undertaken departmentally except very few identified cases. Wherever outsourcing is resorted to, the work would have to be executed as per archaeological norms under the overall supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India.